

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. EARL DURDEN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with both great honor and humility that I rise to recognize the life of Mr. Earl Durden. After 18 years, Earl succumbed to his battle with cancer and now rests in peace. Throughout his 78 years, Mr. Durden spent his days working as a community leader, and I am proud to honor his lifetime as a compassionate giver and visionary.

Mr. Durden came from humble beginnings. He was born the son of a farmer outside of Dothan, Alabama, but became a powerful leader in the transportation industry. While he was a well known railroad magnate throughout Florida, Mr. Durden was perhaps best known as a local philanthropist and for his quiet charity. Earl Durden was a friend to many and was respected by even more. He was a man who always gave generously and has good deeds that will forever go unknown. Even during his fight with cancer, he never forgot what was important and what was worth living for.

Earl Durden was a self-made man. He believed in being honest, working hard and making the most of life. His impressive list of accomplishments includes being named chairman of the state transportation commission under Governor Jeb Bush, CEO and Director of Rail Management Corporation and owner of Magic Broadcasting Company. At age 68, Durden was honored by being named one of the most influential people in Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize and honor the life of Earl Durden. The size of Mr. Durden's heart was only matched by his love for family. My wife Vicki and I express the deepest sympathies to his loving wife Karen and their three sons.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR MARK B. HILL

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Major Mark B. Hill of El Dorado Hills, California. Hill grew up in El Dorado Hills and after graduating from California State University-Sacramento, he was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force at Mather Air Force Base.

Major Hill has served with distinction for the last 20 years, flying over 4,500 hours and more than 130 combat support missions aboard the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft and as a qualified Master Air Battle Manager. He has deployed in support of multiple operations, including: Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch, Deliberate Force, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. As a qualified Joint Service Officer, he left a NATO post for his current duty assignment as a Branch Chief within the Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division, Directorate of

Requirements, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. As a former Eagle Scout, he remains a volunteer supporting the Boy Scouts of America and has done so throughout his military career. Hill's commendations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, with his retirement from active duty in the United States Air Force on June 1, 2010, I am proud to recognize Major Mark B. Hill and thank him for over two decades of representing the finest of our values and for his long service in defense of our nation.

HOOSIER HONOR FLIGHT

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the brave and heroic veterans of the Hoosier Honor Flight for their outstanding leadership and service to our country.

Hoosier Honor Flight is an organization created solely to honor the men and women who have bravely sacrificed in their service to our country by flying our heroes to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at the memorials they so rightly earned.

The Hoosier Honor Flight is an admirable undertaking. It is of the utmost importance to me that all American veterans are honored. Thanks to their courageous service, all Americans live free in this great country.

Thanks to the dedication of Monroe County veterans' organizations, businesses and Hoosiers from across southern Indiana who joined forces to provide the first Hoosier Honor Flight on 12 November 2008, 39 World War II veterans and one Korean War veteran were able to enjoy visiting the national WWII Memorial, Lincoln and FDR memorials, Vietnam and Korean War memorials, as well as the Marine Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and laying a Hoosier Honor Flight wreath at the Tomb.

Today, over one hundred Hoosier veterans will arrive in Washington, DC to visit the memorials dedicated in their honor. I will have the privilege of meeting these fine men and women to thank them for their service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF "OPERATION COOKIE SHARE"

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the success of "Operation Cookie Share," a collaborative effort of the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois and the State Farm Military Affinity Group. This year, customers purchasing Girl Scout cookies were able check on their order form whether they

wanted to donate extra boxes of cookies to our troops. As a result of this effort, over 86,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were sold and delivered to our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, military hospitals in the U.S. and overseas, and USO hubs at major American airports for deploying and returning troops.

Our sons and daughters fighting for us overseas put their lives on the line every day and everything we can do to make their lives easier helps. These cookies aren't just a treat; they're a simple reminder of home and a simple gesture of thanks from a grateful community. I'm proud to support the great members of the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois and the State Farm Military Affinity Group, and honor the work done by so many in our community to thank our troops.

HONORING EDUCATION & ASSISTANCE CORPORATION FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Educational & Assistance Corp.

EAC has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with Education & Assistance Corp. are admirable.

I am proud to honor Educational & Assistance Corp. for their extraordinary work in the community.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING PARENT SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) in northern Virginia. These associations serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

Schools located throughout northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through PTAs and PTSAs. Parent volunteers exist in a number of capacities within each school ranging from planning and implementing social events to helping ensure that teachers have the classroom resources they need to succeed.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with more than 220 schools. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups